

What is claimed is:

1. A door lock controller comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting a signal including a specific identification code;

5 a receiver for receiving the signal transmitted;

a request switch for causing the receiver to start a receipt of the signal, wherein a door lock is locked or unlocked through an actuation of the request switch in accordance with the signal;

a determination section for determining that the receiver  
10 is incapable of receiving the signal;

a storage section for storing a cipher used for unlocking the door lock entered on the basis of an actuation of the request switch when said determination section has determined that the signal is incapable of receiving from the transmitter; and

15 a door lock unlocking section for unlocking the door lock when a coincidence exists between a cipher stored in advance and the cipher inputted through said actuation of the request switch and stored in said storage section.

20 2. The door lock controller according to claim 1, further comprising:

an answer back section for informing an operator of the actuation of the request switch,

wherein said storage section stores the cipher used for  
25 unlocking the door lock entered as a result of repeated

actuations of the request switch.

3. The door lock controller according to claim 1,  
further comprising:

5 an answer back section for informing an operator that  
the actuation of the request switch is being continued,  
wherein said storage section stores the cipher used for unlocking  
the door lock entered on the basis of the number of the answer  
back operations performed by said answer back section during  
10 the continuous actuation of the request switch.

4. The door lock controller according to claim 2,  
wherein:

said answer back section includes an illumination section.  
15 provided in a passenger compartment.

5. The door lock controller according to claim 3,  
wherein:

said answer back section includes an illumination section  
20 provided in a passenger compartment.

6. The door lock controller according to claim 2,  
wherein:

said answer back section includes an answer back indicator  
25 provided integrally with the request switch.

7. The door lock controller according to claim 3,  
wherein:

said answer back section includes an answer back indicator  
5 provided integrally with the request switch.

8. The door lock controller according to claim 6,  
wherein:

said answer back indicator provides a different display  
10 depending on whether or not the transmitter is situated within  
a receivable range of the receiver.

9. The door lock controller according to claim 7,  
wherein:

15 said answer back indicator provides a different display  
depending on whether or not the transmitter is situated within  
a receivable range of the receiver.

10. The door lock controller according to claim 6,  
20 wherein:

said answer back indicator provides a different display  
depending on states of the door lock.

11. The door lock controller according to claim 7,  
25 wherein:

said answer back indicator provides a different display depending on states of the door lock.

12.. The door lock controller according to claim 2,  
5 wherein:

said answer back section includes a sound section for informing the operator by means of a sound.

13. The door lock controller according to claim 3,  
10 wherein:

said answer back section includes a sound section for informing the operator by means of a sound.

14. A method for controlling a door lock with a door  
15 lock controller having a transmitter for transmitting a signal including a specific identification code, a receiver for receiving the signal transmitted from the transmitter, and a request switch for causing the receiver to start a receipt of the signal, wherein a door lock is locked or unlocked through  
20 an actuation of the request switch in accordance with the signal received by the receiver, said controlling method comprising the steps of:

determining that the receiver is incapable of receiving the signal from the transmitter;

25 storing a cipher used for unlocking the door lock entered

on the basis of an actuation of the request switch when it is determined that the signal is incapable of receiving from the transmitter; and

unlocking the door lock when a coincidence exists between  
5 a cipher stored in advance and the cipher inputted through said actuation of the request switch and stored.

15. The door lock controlling method according to claim 14, further comprising:

10 informing an operator of the actuation of the request switch as an answer back operation,

wherein said storing step stores the cipher used for unlocking the door lock entered as a result of repeated actuations of the request switch.

15

16. The door lock controlling method according to claim 14, further comprising:

informing an operator that the actuation of the request switch is continued as an answer back operation,

20

wherein said storing step stores the cipher used for unlocking the door lock entered on the basis of the number of the answer back operations performed during the continuous actuation of the request switch.